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White Mountains fault zone, Hammil section (Class A) No. 47b

Last Review Date: 2000-12-08

Compiled in cooperation with the California Geological Survey

citation for this record: **Bryant, W.A., compiler, 2000, Fault number 47b, White Mountains fault zone, Hammil section, in Quaternary fault and fold database of the United States: U.S. Geological Survey website, https://earthquakes.usgs.gov/hazards/qfaults, accessed 12/14/2020 03:08 PM.**

Synopsis	**General:** This major Basin and Range Holocene active dextral-normal and normal fault zone is located along the western front of the White Mountains and northern Inyo Mountains. The fault zone is divided into 4 sections in this compilation, principally based on by modified from sections delineated by dePolo (1989 #2456). From north to south the sections are Montgomery, Hammil, central, and Inyo-Waucoba. There have been no paleoseismic studies using trenching, but dePolo (1989 #2456) profiled several fault scarps along strands of the fault zone and reported evidence of late Holocene displacement. A late Holocene

	event that dePolo (1989 #2456) termed the Black Mountain paleoseismic rupture occurred at 3 ka (?2 k.y.), based on diffusion modeling. dePolo (1989 #2456) estimated a preferred latest Pleistocene to Holocene vertical slip rate of 0.8-1mm/yr for the northern part of the White Mountains fault zone, based on amounts of offset of alluvial-fan surfaces their soil profile development for age constraints. Slip rates for the southern part of the fault zone are not as well documented due to a significant, but poorly constrained dextral strike-slip component. dePolo (1989 #2456) estimated an average recurrence interval of 3-5 k.y. based on offset Holocene alluvium at Marble Creek and Orchard Springs (Montgomery section). **Sections:** This fault has 4 sections. There is insufficient data to delineate seismogenic segments. dePolo (1989 #2456) proposed that the White Mountains fault zone consists of 5 sections, based on geomorphic expression. From north to south the sections are Montgomery, Hammil, central, Waucoba, and Inyo. These sections are adopted in this compilation with the exception of the Waucoba section. dePolo stated that the boundary between the Waucoba and Inyo sections is arbitrary and so a combined Inyo-Waucoba section is used in this compilation.
Name comments	**General:** The White Mountains fault zone was first mapped in detail by Anderson (1933 #5595) and Taylor (1933 #5607). Anderson, who mapped the northern part of the fault zone, called this part the Montgomery fault zone. Crowder and others (1972 #5600) and Crowder and Sheridan (1972 #5594) first used the name White Mountains fault zone generally for bedrock faults in the Montgomery and Hammil sections of fault zone. Bryant (1984 #5589; 1984 #5597; 1984 #5598) called the fault zone south of Milner Canyon the White Mountains frontal fault zone, whereas dePolo (1989 #2456) proposed the name White Mountains fault system. The name White Mountains fault zone will be used in this compilation. It includes the Benton Valley fault, named by Smith (1984 #5606) and the Aberdeen fault, first named by dePolo (1989 #2456). **Fault ID:** Refers to numbers 204 (northern part of White Mountains fault and Benton Valley fault) of Jennings (1994 #2878), and faults MA10 (Benton Valley fault) and MA11A (White Mountains fault system) of dePolo (1989 #2456).
County(s) and State(s)	MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
Physiographic	

Physiographic province(s)	BASIN AND RANGE
Reliability of location	Good Compiled at 1:62,500 scale. *Comments:* Locations based on digital relocation of Jennings (1994 #2878) mapping. Original mapping by Bateman (1965 #5587) and dePolo (1989 #2456) is at 1:62,500 scale.
Geologic setting	The White Mountains fault zone is a major, north- to northwest-striking zone of normal and dextral strike-slip faults that extend about 115 km along the western front of the White Mountains and northern Inyo Mountains. The fault zone extends from Northern Queen Valley in Nevada along a somewhat arcuate southwest trend. The fault zones intersection of the Benton Valley fault marks a change in strike to generally north-south along the western front of the White Mountains. South of the Waucoba embayment, the fault changes to a southwest trend delineated by the Aberdeen fault, which may complexly link with the Owens Valley [51] fault zone. The White Mountains fault zone is in the western portion of the Basin and Range province, an area characterized by oblique extensional tectonics resulting in both dextral strike-slip and normal dip-slip displacement. Anderson (1933 #5595) estimated 2,433 m of total vertical displacement along the White Mountains fault. Gilbert (1938 #5602; 1941 #5604) reported 1,824-2,134 m of vertical displacement. Total dextral strike-slip displacement has not been documented. Surface fault ruptures of as much as 5 mm dextral-normal displacement occurred along the central section of the White Mountains fault zone [47c] in association with the July 21, 1986 Mw 6.1 Chalfant Valley earthquake (Kahle and others, 1986 #5605; dePolo and Ramelli, 1987 #3339; Lienkaemper and others, 1987 #3371).
Length (km)	This section is 18 km of a total fault length of 109 km.
Average strike	N3°W (for section) versus N7°W (for whole fault)
Sense of movement	Normal *Comments:* Predominantly down-to-west normal displacement, although dePolo (1989 #2456) inferred a dextral strike-slip component of displacement, based on the overall northwest orientation of the fault zone.

Dip Direction	W *Comments:* Dip angle is not well constrained, but fault zone generally dips to the west at a steep angle. Geophysical survey suggests a major, relatively simple fault zone bounding the western border of the White Mountains (Pakiser and others, 1964 #1596; Oliver and Robbins, 1978 #5647). Gravity data indicates the fault zone dips steeply west and locally may be vertical (Oliver and Robbins, 1978 #5647).
Paleoseismology studies	
Geomorphic expression	Faults in the Hammil section are generally poorly defined and evidence of Quaternary displacement is mostly inferred from faceted spurs, linear depressions and benches, and oversteepened slopes (dePolo, 1989 #2456). Alluvial fans head at the fault zone east of the range front and stream channel gradient anomalies are immediately upstream (east) of the fault zone (dePolo, 1989 #2456).
Age of faulted surficial deposits	Fault offsets Mesozoic crystalline basement rocks (Crowder and Sheridan, 1972 #5594) and, possibly, older alluvium of probable Quaternary age (dePolo, 1989 #2456).
Historic earthquake	
Most recent prehistoric deformation	undifferentiated Quaternary (<1.6 Ma) *Comments:* Timing of the most recent paleoevent on the Hammil section is poorly constrained. Fault traces offset Mesozoic crystalline basement rocks. Inferred tectonic scarps on older alluvium of probable Quaternary age were mapped by dePolo (1989 #2456), but geomorphic or stratigraphic evidence of Holocene displacement has not been reported.
Recurrence interval	*Comments:* Wesnousky (1986 #5305) estimated a recurrence interval of about 3 k.y. for the entire White Mountains fault zone, based on a preferred vertical slip rate of 0.8 mm/yr and an assumed Mw 7.1 earthquake.
Slip-rate	Between 0.2 and 1.0 mm/yr

category	*Comments:* Slip rate based on association with Montgomery section [47a] to north and central section [47c] to the south.
Date and Compiler(s)	2000 William A. Bryant, California Geological Survey
References	#5595 Anderson, G.H., 1933, Geology of the north half of the White Mountains quadrangle, California: Pasadena, California Institute of Technology, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, 237 p. #5587 Bateman, P.C., 1965, Geology and tungsten mineralization of the Bishop district, California: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 470, 208 p., scale 1:62,500. #5589 Bryant, W.A., 1984, Evidence of recent faulting along the Owens Valley, Round Valley, and White Mountains fault zones, Inyo and Mono Counties, California: California Division of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 84-54SAC, 4 p. #5597 Bryant, W.A., 1984, Northern Owens Valley, Fish Slough, and White Mountains frontal faults, Inyo and Mono Counties: California Division of Mines and Geology Fault Evaluation Report FER-153, microfiche copy in California Division of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 90-14, scale 1:62,500. #5598 Bryant, W.A., 1984, Owens Valley and White Mountains frontal faults, Big Pine area, Inyo County: California Division of Mines and Geology Fault Evaluation Report FER-159, microfiche copy in California Division of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 90-14, 22 p. #5594 Crowder, D.R., and Sheridan, M.F., 1972, Geologic map of the White Mountain Peak quadrangle, Mono County, California: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic quadrangle Map GQ-1012, scale 1:62,500. #5600 Crowder, D.R., Robinson, P.T., and Dahl, L.H., 1972, Geologic map of the Benton quadrangle, Mono County, California, and Esmeralda and Mineral Counties, Nevada: U.S. Geological Survey Geologic quadrangle Map GQ-1013, scale 1:62,500. #2456 dePolo, C.M., 1989, Seismotectonics of the White Mountains fault system, east-central California and west-central

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